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23 March 1959

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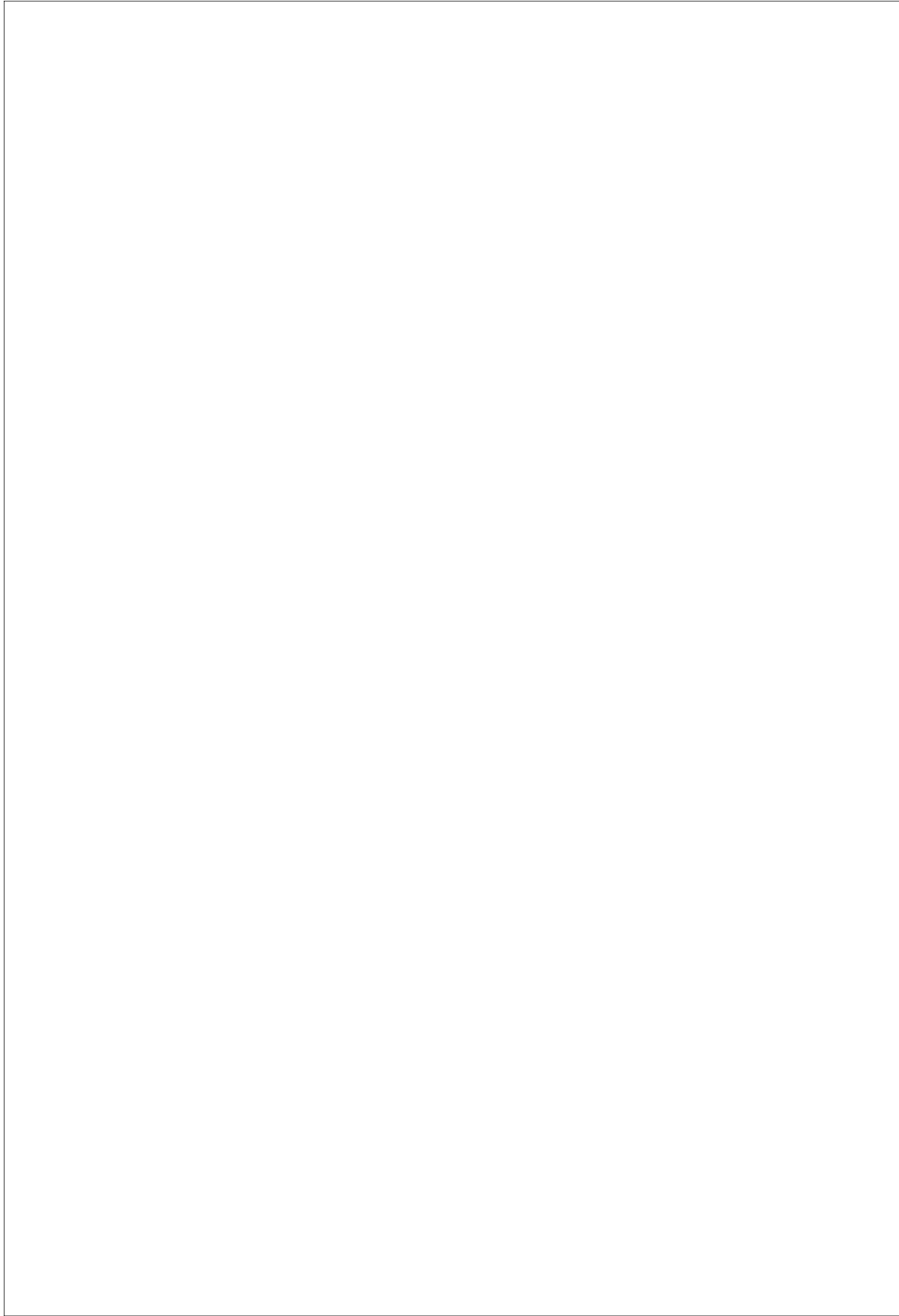
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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23 MARCH 1959

I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

Tibet - Dalai Lama reported at monastery southeast of Lhasa.

II. ASIA-AFRICA

Tensions continue on Syrian-Iraqi border; further heated propaganda exchanges.

Unrest in Jordanian Army.

Algerian rebels sending military mission to Peiping, apparently to procure military equipment.

France playing lone role to attract Laos and Cambodia into new French Community.

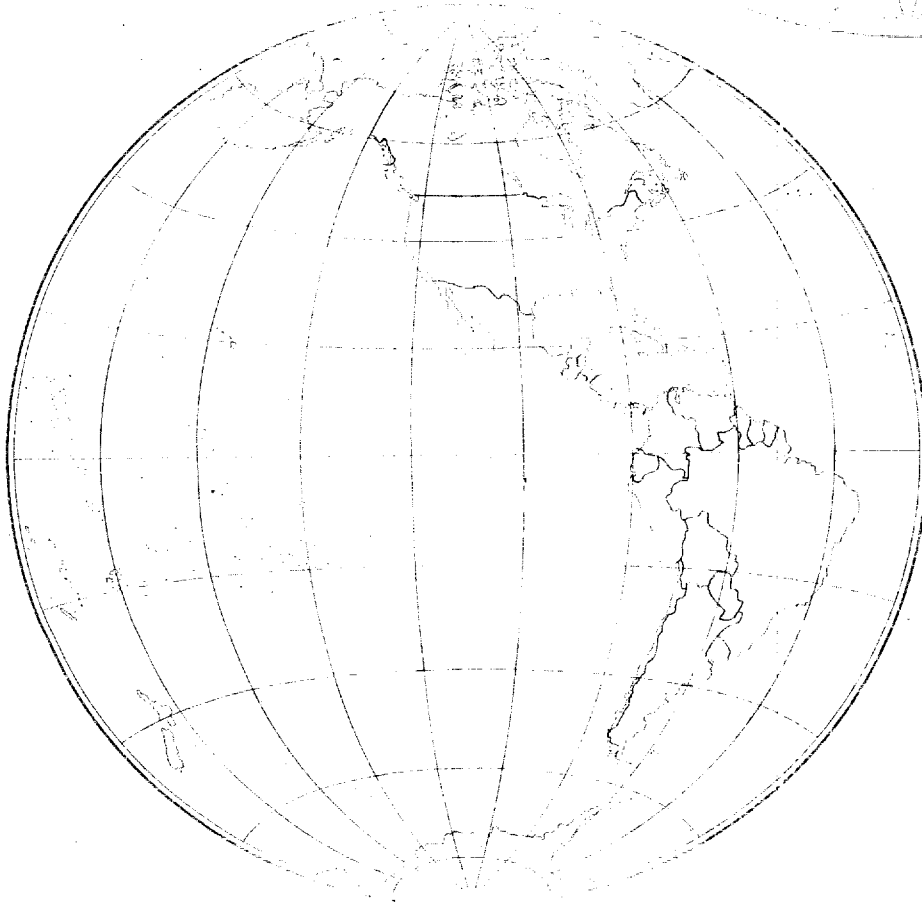
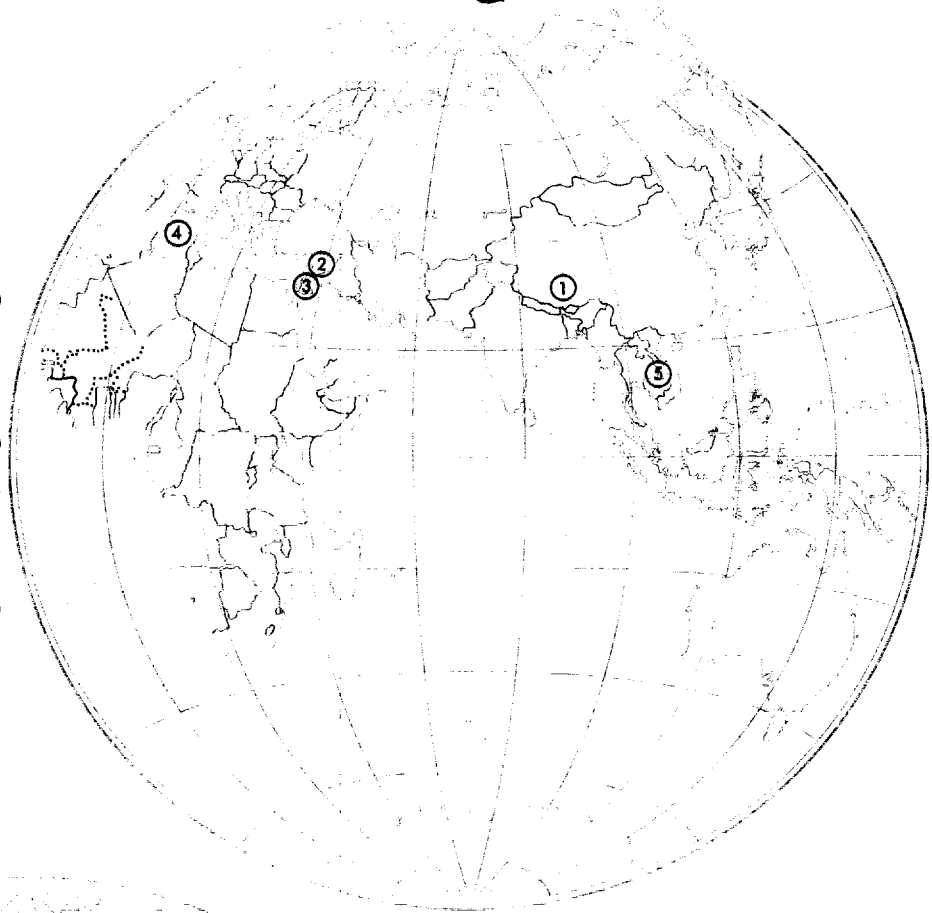
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

23 March 1959

DAILY BRIEF

I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

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*Tibet: The Dalai Lama, reported to have fled Lhasa on 17 March to seek asylum in India, arrived secretly at a monastery about 35 miles southeast of Lhasa on 18 March according to a reliable report. The location of the monastery suggests that the party's destination may be Bhutan or the nearby northeastern Indian border. Rebel forces are believed to be strong in the area between the monastery and the border. The Tibetan uprisings apparently have resulted in a considerable loss of prestige for Communist China in India, and Indian newspapers are critical of Nehru for having minimized reports of the uprisings. [REDACTED] "

[REDACTED]

II. ASIA-AFRICA

Iraq-UAR: Tensions continue on the Syrian-Iraqi border. Iraqi military units are concerned that the Shammar Bedouin, whom they have not yet been able to bring under control, are receiving equipment and support from just across the border in Syria. [REDACTED]

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Further virulent propaganda exchanges are taking place between the UAR and Iraq. Soviet propaganda organs continue to criticize Nasir's anti-Qasim, anti-Communist campaign as only "benefiting the imperialists," and they have accused Cairo of misinterpreting Khrushchev's 16 March speech, which Nasir had called a turning point in Moscow's policy toward the Arabs. On 20 March the Chinese Communist press commented for the first time and in the same tenor as Moscow on the UAR-Iraq events. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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W Jordan: [The commanding officer of the Jordanian Fifth Artillery Regiment was arrested on 20 March on suspicion of complicity in a "pro-Nasir plot to overthrow the present regime," [redacted] Like the 14 March arrests of 11 other officers on the same grounds, this appears to be an effort by influential Bani Sakhr Bedouin elements to eliminate opposition factions and enhance their own role within the army. They may try to go further during the absence from the country of the King and most other key government leaders and develop their position in the army to the point where they would wield the governing power--possibly ousting Prime Minister Rifai. The American chargé believes that, in any case, this factionalism within the officer corps has already reduced the army's effectiveness to such a degree that there is serious doubt of its ability to maintain internal security.] [redacted]

W Algeria - Communist China: The Algerian "Provisional Government" announced on 22 March that it would soon dispatch a ten-man military mission to Communist China at the latter's invitation. The mission will probably arrange to obtain some \$4,000,000 worth of military equipment which, [redacted]

[redacted] Peiping offered the rebels last December. President Bourguiba has stated publicly that he will not oppose passage through Tunisia of Communist arms for the Algerians.

(Page 1)

W France-Indochina: [France seems to be accelerating its efforts in the Indochina area to attract Laos and Cambodia into an association with the new French Community. France has turned down US plans for joint training of the Laotian Army, and the French ambassador in Cambodia has been playing a devious, independent role in that country. The French also are conducting a smear campaign against South Vietnamese President Diem, whom they regard as an obstacle to French influence in the area.] [redacted]

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DAILY BRIEF

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I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC
(No Back-up Material)

II. ASIA-AFRICA

Algerian Rebels Send Delegation to Peiping to Select Arms

The Algerian rebel "Provisional Government" announced on 22 March that it would soon send a delegation apparently composed of military technicians to Peiping, probably to select some \$4,000,000 worth of materiel which, [] [] was offered to a rebel delegation that visited Communist China last December. This aid would include about \$3,000,000 worth of light arms--possibly American--and ammunition, plus \$1,000,000 worth of auxiliary military supplies and medical equipment. []

[] Peiping was also willing to provide the Algerians with money amounting to \$1,000,000.

The delivery of any arms selected in Peiping will be a considerable problem for the Algerians. Early this month, however, Tunisian President Bourguiba told an American news correspondent that he would not oppose the passage through Tunisia of Communist arms for the Algerians. The rebel representative in Tunis, reporting this interview to Cairo, proposed that an early discussion be held with Bourguiba on the practical means of assuring passage. ([]

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France May Increase Unilateral Activity in Indochina

[There are indications that De Gaulle's concept of a "great France" has led him to instruct his ambassadors in the Indochina area to increase their efforts to restore French prestige and influence, with the probable goal of attracting Laos and Cambodia into association with the new French Community, according to the American ambassador in Paris. Moreover, French officials seem convinced that the United States is somehow responsible for the abortive Cambodian revolt and for the Laotian denunciation of the Geneva accords; the French believe the latter event has created a dangerous situation by provoking Communist China and North Vietnam.]

[] French policy differs both tactically and strategically from US policy; France seeks the establishment of avowedly neutral regimes in Laos and Cambodia with good covert ties to the West, rather than of strong, openly anti-Communist and pro-Western regimes. []

[] France intended to step up its efforts in Indochina, and he said he had heard that additional intelligence personnel were being sent there.]

[Paris continues to oppose US plans to train the Laotian Army. In addition, France's refusal to accept Laos' position that it is no longer bound by the restrictive provisions of the Geneva accords appears motivated, at least in part, by a determination to preserve its monopoly over the training function.]

[In Cambodia, French Ambassador Gorce has been playing a devious and independent role which has been disadvantageous to US relations with Prince Sihanouk. His independent warning to Sihanouk of the abortive Dap Chhuon coup gave the impression that US silence stemmed from complicity in the affair.]

[The French also appear to have embarked on a smear campaign against South Vietnam's President Diem, whose influence they feel runs counter to French aspirations in the area. The]

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[French ambassador in Saigon recently implied that Diem, looking to the eventual unification of Vietnam, is unperturbed by North Vietnamese occupation of a disputed area on the Laotian frontier.]

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